



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, October 14, 2019**

**Scottsdale Community Design Studio  
7506 E Indian School Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251**

**PRESENT:** Janice Shimokubo, Vice Chair  
James Eaneman  
Emily Hinchman  
Hannellie Mendoza  
Stuart Rhoden

**STAFF:** Sharon Cini  
Kelly Corsette

**GUESTS:** Marcia Meyer, Be Kind People Project  
Rachel Pearson, Experience Scottsdale  
Jackie Taylor

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Vice-Chair Shimokubo called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Rachel Pearson, Experience Scottsdale, extended an invitation to Commissioners to attend a Behind the Scenes of Experience Scottsdale session on November 20, 2019.

**1. Approval of minutes from the September 9, 2019 meeting**

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER HINCHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS EANEMAN, HINCHMAN, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER MENDOZA WAS NOT YET PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**2. Presentation and discussion of submitted nominations and voting for new Human Relations Commission Chairperson**

- Nominee - Vice-Chair Janice Shimokubo

JANICE SHIMOKUBO WAS ELECTED CHAIR BY A ROLL CALL VOTE. COMMISSIONERS EANEMAN, HINCHMAN, MENDOZA, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO ABSTAINED. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Janice Shimokubo acted as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**3. Presentation, discussion and recommendations regarding the city's panhandling signs**

Kelly Corsette, Communications Public Affairs Director, gave a presentation discussing the City's panhandling signs. The signs came to be earlier this year as a result of an increasing number of calls to the City for increased panhandling activity throughout the community. A group of staff met to discuss what options were available that could help encourage residents to donate to agencies running programs aimed at addressing larger issues instead of giving to panhandlers, in hopes of reducing the number of panhandling incidents. Research showed that other cities were having some success with placing signs in high activity areas.

Currently, there are 20 panhandling signs at about half a dozen locations around the city. The city was offered the opportunity to use ADOT's approved signs so they could be posted in state right-of-ways, but opted to use Scottsdale created signs and keep them on City-owned areas where citizens have reported high panhandling activity. The program has driven approximately 1,300 visits to the City's website page on panhandling. The program launched in May 2019 and will continue to be evaluated through the upcoming season.

Jackie Taylor spoke in support of the City's use of panhandling signs, opining that it is a humane approach to handling the situation.

Commissioner Rhoden said that he finds the signs offensive. He commented that the number of people abusing the practice is small in comparison to those who are actually homeless and in need of assistance.

Discussion ensued regarding various scenarios involving persons experiencing homelessness, willingness to accept public services, addressing mental health issues and encouraging citizens to donate to social service agencies.

**4. Presentation, discussion and recommendations regarding The Be Kind People Project as a Community Diversity Partner**

Marcia Meyer from The Be Kind People Project spoke about the history of the organization, which focuses on youth development with a vision of building a generation of respectful, responsible, healthy, and caring citizens and leaders.

Commissioner Hinchman said that The Be Kind People Project will be an integral part of the Golden Rule Day event.

COMMISSIONER RHODEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE BE KIND PEOPLE PROJECT AS A COMMUNITY DIVERSITY PARTNER. COMMISSIONER EANEMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS EANEMAN, HINCHMAN, MENDOZA, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**5. Presentation, discussion and recommendations regarding the city's DRAFT ADA Transition Plan**

Sharon Cini presented the draft Americans with Disabilities transition plan. Results of the self-evaluation survey from FY 2017/18 and feedback from public outreach are being used in creation of the plan. Staff from several departments have become certified ADA liaisons. Ms. Cini reviewed the demographics of those living with a disability in Scottsdale. Questions being posed during public outreach are designed to help the City identify needed policy changes.

ADA Title 2 applies to public entities and includes requirements for physical accessibility and program accessibility. Ms. Cini provided examples of areas in which departments will analyze programs for accessibility. Requests for accommodation and/or complaints can be submitted to the City through ScottsdaleEZ.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Cini said that part of the self-evaluation is making sure that when a citizen gives feedback, that feedback is logged and used to evaluate priorities.

Ms. Cini said that the survey is available on the City's Diversity page under accessibility. She encouraged all Commissioners to take the survey. The City is striving to develop a Disabilities Advisory Committee that would meet throughout the year.

**6. Presentation, discussion and recommendations on 2019 Human Relations Commission strategic plan**

- **Review current planning for the Golden Rule Day – April 11, 2020 @ Scottsdale Civic Center Mall**

Commissioner Hinchman announced that the free to the public Golden Rule Day event is planned for April 11, 2020 at Scottsdale Civic Center Mall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Be Kind Project will provide DJ, music, stage, dancing and involvement with the Diamondbacks, one of their community partners. STOP will kick off the event with a

community walk and Mayor Lane will speak. Doc Jones will provide music and food. Scottsdale for All literature will be available in various locations. The Interfaith Group will participate by providing a choir and children in costume. Scottsdale for All will be represented at a dedicated booth.

Marketing efforts will include publicity posters or flyers, social media postings, outreach to community partners, and direct marketing to the list of dignitaries who attended the first event in 2017.

Ms. Cini noted that the November HRC agenda will include discussion on the event budget and volunteer needs.

- **Scottsdale for All project update**

Chair Shimokubo said that Scottsdale for All project will have an ad in the 2020 Scottsdale Visitor Guide published by Experience Scottsdale and staff has purchased an ad in the Arabian Horse Show booklet. Ms. Cini noted that additional ads will be purchased through Community Partner events, including The Be Kind Project, Martin Luther King Dinner, and at Scottsdale Stadium.

Chair Shimokubo said that she is meeting with Scottsdale Unified School District on October 15th to discuss Scottsdale for All opportunities. She noted that approval to use Instagram is still pending.

- **Community outreach opportunities**

Ms. Cini announced outreach opportunities that the Diversity Department will be participating in and invited Commissioners to attend.

- Discover India - November 8th and 9th, 2019.
- Arizona Asian Festival - November 16th and 17th, 2019
- Canal Convergence
- Scottsdazzle

- **Work session to update the 2020 HRC strategic plan – Possible date Nov. 4th**

Discussion ensued about scheduling the 2020 HRC strategic plan work session. Consensus of the Commissioners was to reschedule the next meeting to November 4th and schedule the strategic plan work session following the regular meeting. The November 4th meeting will be the first meeting for new Commissioners.

## **7. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

Commissioner Rhoden requested that further discussion regarding the panhandling signs be agendized.

## **Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER EANEMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER HINCHMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, COMMISSIONERS EANEMAN, HINCHMAN, MENDOZA, AND RHODEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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